

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 01922 011445Z

44

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /017 W

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R 011400Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6124

INFO DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 1922

NOFORN

PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR KEATING

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINR XF

SUBJ: NIE ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 71859

1. WE AGREE WITH THRUST OF NIE THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF
SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN NARROWING ARAB-ISRAELI DIFFERENCES,
EITHER AT GENEVA OR IN SOME OTHER FORM, THE RISK OF
HOSTILITIES IN THE CURRENT SITUATION HAS INCREASED
SUBSTANTIALLY AS A RESULT OF THE COLLAPSE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

2. IT IS CLEAR THAT IF GOI SENSED THAT AN ARAB ATTACK
WAS IMMINENT, SERIOUS CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO A
PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IN OUR MINDS,
THE GOI IS EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO AVOID WAR. MANY MINISTERS,
IT NOT ALL, ARE AWARE THAT ISRAEL'S POLITICAL POSITION
WOULD SUFFER SEVERLY EVEN IF THERE WAS AN ISRAELI MILITARY
VICTORY. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS WILL WEIGH MUCH
HEAVIER IN BALANCE OF ANY ISRAELI DECISION ON SUCH A
GRAVE MATTER THAN THEY MIGHT HAV IN PAST. WE SHOULD NOTE
THAT THE GOI IS ANXIOUS TO AVOID BEING " BLAMED" FOR
BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS. THIS WILL ADD A FACTOR OF
CAUTION IN MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT FUTURE MILITARY ACTIONS.
VELIOTES

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